Staff Report City of Loma Linda

From the Department of Community Development

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF DECEMBER 7, 2005

TO: PLANNING COMMISSION

FROM: DEBORAH WOLDRUFF, AICP, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: **SAN TIMOTEO CREEK HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

SUMMARY

The proposed project is a habitat enhancement and vegetation restoration plan on an approximately 30-foot wide corridor along San Timoteo Creek along approximately 10 miles of the creek (see location). Areas along San Timoteo Creek Channel would be re-established as a wildlife corridor with native vegetation. The City of Loma Linda is the Lead Agency and other project participants include the City of Redlands and San Bernardino County.

The project begins south of Redlands Boulevard (0.5 miles east of Waterman Avenue) and ends southeasterly at Alessandro Road (0.75 miles north of the Riverside County Line) in the cities of Loma Linda and Redlands, and County of San Bernardino.

RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation is that the Planning Commission takes the following actions:

1. Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration (Attachment A); and,
2. Approve the San Timoteo Creek Habitat Enhancement project based on the Findings.

BACKGROUND

In 1999 and 2000, the City received grant funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the amounts $2.0 million and $0.47 million (respectively) for habitat enhancements to the San Timoteo Creek in the cities of Loma Linda and Redlands. San Bernardino County was also asked to participate because of unincorporated lands located at the mouth of the canyon and Flood Control properties that would be affected.

The EPA grants were listed for the City of Loma Linda and as such, the City is acting as the grants administrator and lead agency (pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act). Over the last five years, both Community Development and Public Works staff have been actively involved in developing the project. Due to the nature of the project design and installation of the habitat enhancements, the Public Works Department is now taking the lead on project development. Community Development staff is assisting with the environmental processes, which include preparation of an

Environmental Assessment pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and preparation of a Notice of Intent (NOI)/Initial Study pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The EPA is the lead agency for the NEPA document and the City is the lead agency for the CEQA document.

On November 18, 2003, the City Council approved a Professional Services Agreement with Lilburn Corporation to prepare both the NEPA and CEQA documents. A copy of the NOI/Initial Study is attached to this report.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) STATUS

On November 7, 2005, staff issued Notice of Intent (NOI) to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration. The CEQA mandatory 30-day public review period began on November 7, 2005 and will end on December 7, 2005. The environmental document indicates that implementation of the project with mitigation will not result in any adverse environmental impacts. No comments on the NOI/Initial Study have been received to date.

ANALYSIS

Please refer to the NOI/Initial Study for a detailed project description and other pertinent information about the project, in addition to the analysis of potential environmental impacts.

Findings

The proposed project is consistent with the goals and policies of the Loma Linda and Redlands existing General Plans. The project will provide habitat enhancements along the Creek, which is a major geographic feature and open space area in the City and as it continues southeasterly through the County area and the City of Redlands. The habitat enhancements will benefit avian populations along this portion of the Pacific Flyway. Pedestrians and others using the San Timoteo Creek Trail will be benefited by these improvements as will the adjacent residential and commercial neighborhoods.

CONCLUSION

The San Timoteo Creek Habitat Enhancement Project will provide enhancements along the creek that will benefit avian populations and the Loma Linda and Redlands area communities. The project is consistent with the existing Loma Linda and Redlands General Plans. The CEQA document indicates that implementation of the project with mitigation will not result in any adverse environmental impacts.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Mitigated Negative Declaration (NOI/Initial Study)

CITY OF LOMA LINDA
NOTICE OF INTENT
TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

FROM: CITY OF LOMA LINDA
Community Development Department
25541 Barton Road
Loma Linda, CA 92354

TO: ☒ OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ COUNTY CLERK
County of San Bernardino
385 North Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt a Negative Declaration in compliance with Section 21080c of the Public Resources Code and Sections 15072 and 15073 of the CEQA Guidelines.

Project Title: **SAN TIMOTEO CREEK HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to Clearinghouse): Not yet assigned

Lead Agency Contact Person: Deborah Woldruff, AICP
Area Code/Telephone: 909-799-2830

Project Location (include county): The project begins south of Redlands Boulevard (0.5 miles east of Waterman Avenue) and ends southeasterly at Alessandro Road (0.75 miles north of the Riverside County Line) in the cities of Loma Linda and Redlands, and County of San Bernardino.

Project Description: The proposed project is a habitat enhancement and vegetation restoration plan on an approximately 30-foot wide corridor along San Timoteo Creek along approximately 10 miles of the creek (see location). Areas along San Timoteo Creek Channel would be re-established as a wildlife corridor with native vegetation. The City of Loma Linda is the Lead Agency and other project participants include the City of Redlands and County of San Bernardino.

The project site, which includes many properties adjacent to the San Timoteo Creek Channel, is not listed in the California Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List (Cortese List) pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5(E) for soil or ground water contamination.

This is to notify the public and interested parties of the City of Loma Linda's intent to adopt a Negative Declaration for the above-referenced project. The mandatory public review period will begin on **Monday, November 7, 2005** and will end on **Wednesday, December 7, 2005**. The NOI/Initial Study is available for public review at the public counter in the Community Development Department, 25541 Barton Road, and the Loma Linda Library, 25581 Barton Road, east end of the Civic Center. Copies are also available at the City of Redlands Administrative Offices and the San Bernardino County Flood Control Department.

Following the public review period, the project and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration will be reviewed by the City's **Planning Commission** in a public hearing on **Wednesday, June 25, 2003**, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located of the main lobby of City Hall (address listed above).

Signature: Deborah Woldruff
Deborah Woldruff, AICP

Title: Director
Date: November 2, 2005

Date Received by SCH: _____

SCH #: _____

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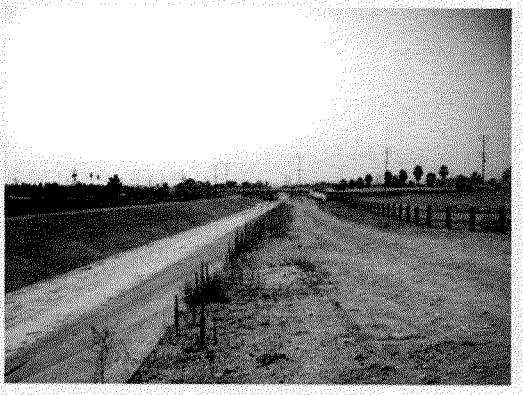
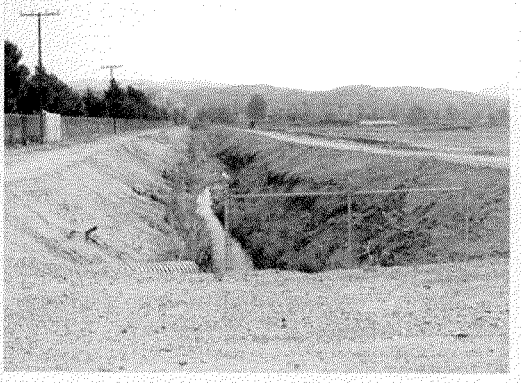
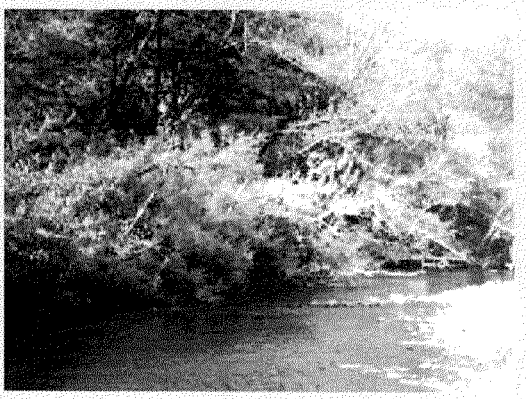
San Timoteo Creek Habitat Enhancement Project







A Cooperative Effort among
City of Loma Linda
City of Redlands
County of San Bernardino

Draft

Initial Study

City of Loma Linda
25541 Barton Road
Loma Linda CA 92354

October 2005

CITY OF LOMA LINDA

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM AND INITIAL STUDY

PROJECT FILE

1. **Project Title:** **San Timoteo Creek Habitat Enhancement Program**

The proposed project is a habitat enhancement and restoration plan on an approximately 30-foot wide corridor along San Timoteo Creek between Redlands Boulevard and Alessandro Road. The project falls within the jurisdictions of the cities of Loma Linda and Redlands and the County of San Bernardino. Areas along San Timoteo Creek would be re-established as a wildlife corridor with native vegetation. For this purpose, the project requires easement rights, common use permits and land acquisition to gain access to the properties for revegetation and open space maintenance.

USGS Quad: Redlands and San Bernardino South 7.5 minutes Quadrangles
T,R, Section: T1S, R3W, Sections 30, 31 and 32; T1S, R4W, Sections 30 and 31; T2S, R3W, Sections 3,4,5,10 and 11.
Thomas Bros 2005 edition: page 607-A6, A7, B7, C7, D7; page 647-D1, E1, F1, F2, G2, G3, H3, J3, J4; page 648- A4, A5, B5, B6, C6, D6, D7.
Planning Area: N.A.
OLUD: N.A.
Improvement Level: N.A

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION:

2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:**
   City of Loma Linda
   Department of Community Development
   ATTN: Deborah Woldruff, AICP
   25541 Barton Road
   Loma Linda, CA 92354-3160

3. **Contact person and phone number:**
   Jarb Thaipejr
   (909) 799-4400

1. **Project sponsor's name and address:**
   City of Loma Linda
   Department of Community Development
   25541 Barton Road
   Loma Linda, CA 92354-3160

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Fully functional wildlife corridors linking the Santa Ana River and Prado Basins to the west with the San Bernardino, San Gorgonio, and San Jacinto Mountains to the east are few. Because their habitat value is reduced, it would require considerable effort and expense to open and restore these corridors. San Timoteo

Creek has been identified as one of the only remaining linkages between these major east and west natural areas that provide an opportunity to restore and enhance wildlife corridors and avian habitat. In addition, San Timoteo Creek connects the natural areas along the Santa Ana River and the upstream San Timoteo Canyon. The remaining riparian corridor of the watershed provides important habitat for wildlife, particularly migratory avian species. The importance of the habitat values of the area has been long recognized, but of even greater importance is the role of the area as a wildlife corridor. The San Timoteo Creek is strategically situated in relation to other important habitat areas including the Badlands, the San Gorgonio and San Jacinto Mountains, Lake Perris State Recreation Area, and Box Springs Mountain Park area. Because of the geographical relationship of these habitat areas to the San Timoteo Creek and the Santa Ana River drainage to the north, The San Timoteo Creek corridor has historically served as a primary corridor for multiple wildlife species. The regional setting of proposed project area is shown on Figure 1.

San Timoteo Creek is part of the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project, originally a joint venture between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). In 1987, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued a flood insurance rate map, which designated 876 acres of land adjacent to San Timoteo Creek as floodway. USACE constructed a trapezoidal concrete-lined channel stretching 3.1 miles from the confluence of the Santa Ana River upstream through sections of San Timoteo Creek labeled Reaches 1, 2, and 3A (see Figure 2). The existence of the concrete-channel constructed in Reaches 1, 2, and 3A inhibits the Creek's ecological corridor function. The San Timoteo Creek has been modified for flood control throughout the project area. Necessary vegetation activities, including vegetation clearing and soil removing activities by the San Bernardino County Flood Control District have reduced the vegetative cover necessary for the Creek to wholly operate as a wildlife corridor.

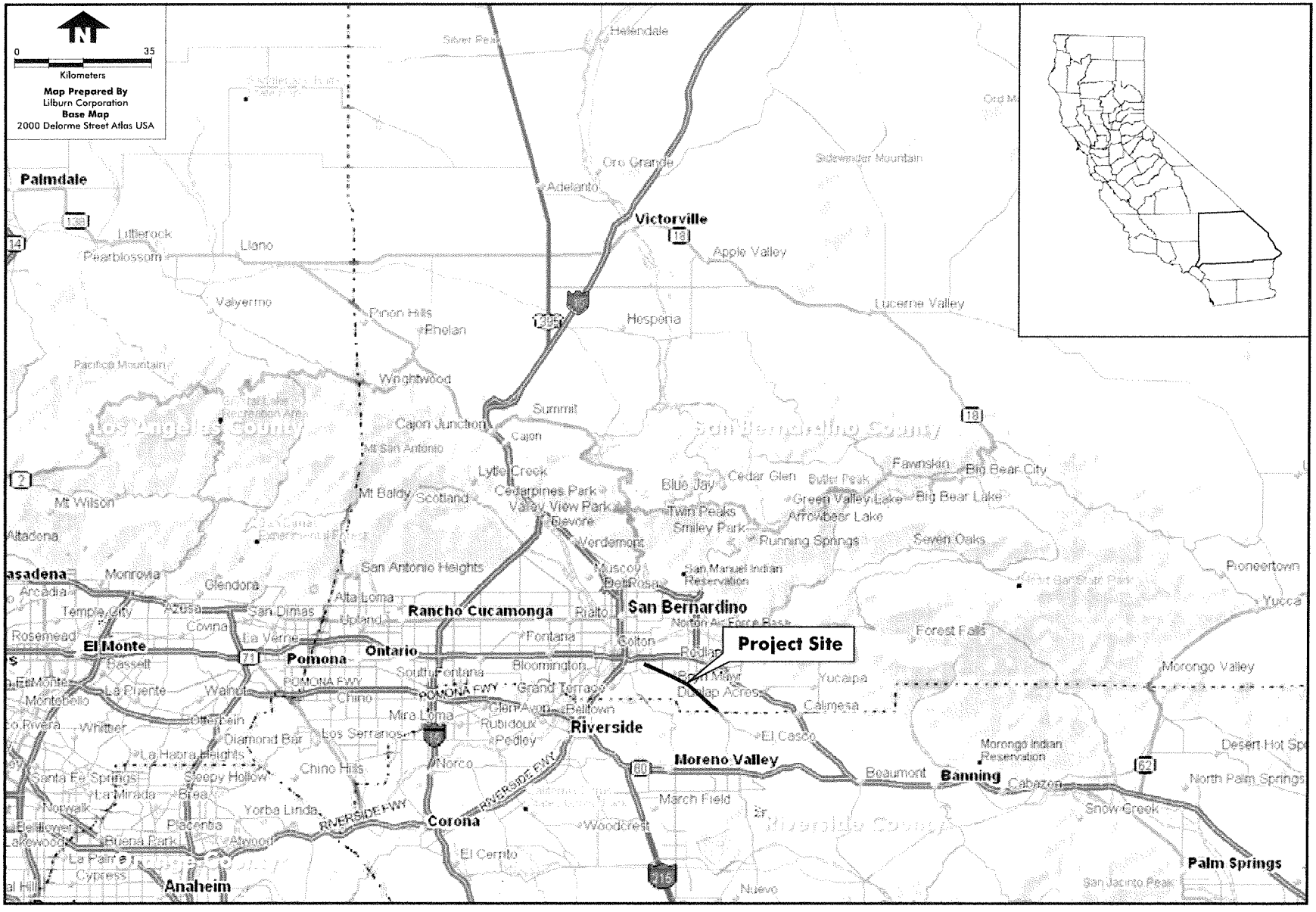
This project proposes to re-establish native vegetation to support the wildlife corridor along the creek and includes approximately ten linear miles of the San Timoteo drainage way (see Figure 3). The project begins south of Redlands Boulevard approximately half mile east of Waterman Avenue and ends southeasterly at Alessandro Road, ¾ mile north of the Riverside County Line. An important facet of this proposed restoration effort is that it involves multiple agencies with generally aligned interests. Because the subject area extends through primary jurisdictions of the City Loma Linda, the City of Redlands, and the County of San Bernardino, all agencies are stakeholders and have direct bearing on the project scope and outcome. This proposed restoration project will focus on the more northerly (urbanized) reaches of San Timoteo Creek and is viewed as contributing to the re-establishment of a wildlife corridor linkage at a regional scale.

Two federal appropriations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have been earmarked for the proposed San Timoteo Creek habitat enhancement project. The three local participating jurisdictions will be responsible together for matching 45 percent of the federal funds. The City of Loma Linda is acting as the CEQA Lead Agency.

This project would require easement rights, common use agreements and land acquisition to establish a wildlife corridor up to 30-foot in width by revegetating the area with appropriate stream corridor vegetation and assure the maintenance of open space areas. In general, properties within Loma Linda will be acquired or easements obtained for revegetating along the Creek and properties in Redlands will be acquired to maintain existing open spaces and natural vegetation. Three distinct areas associated with the enhancement project have been identified. These are shown on Figure 4 and described below.

Focus Area One

Focus Area One in Loma Linda, is the San Timoteo reach from the Gage Canal to the Barton Bridge crossing. Funding will be applied to acquiring and environmentally enhancing select parcels adjoining the already completed USACE floodway project. Eleven properties have been identified for fee or easement acquisition and these, in addition to several sites owned by the City of Loma Linda and the County of San Bernardino, will become a part of the project. The focus of the effort in this area will be to widen the potential habitat margin with a series of expanded planting nodes along the main drainage-way that will enable the establishment of a mixture of riparian and upland native vegetation. It is anticipated that these expanded areas will strengthen the



Regional Map

San Timoteo Creek - Habitat Enhancement Project
Cities of Loma Linda and Redlands
San Bernardino County, California

Figure 1

Prepared By:
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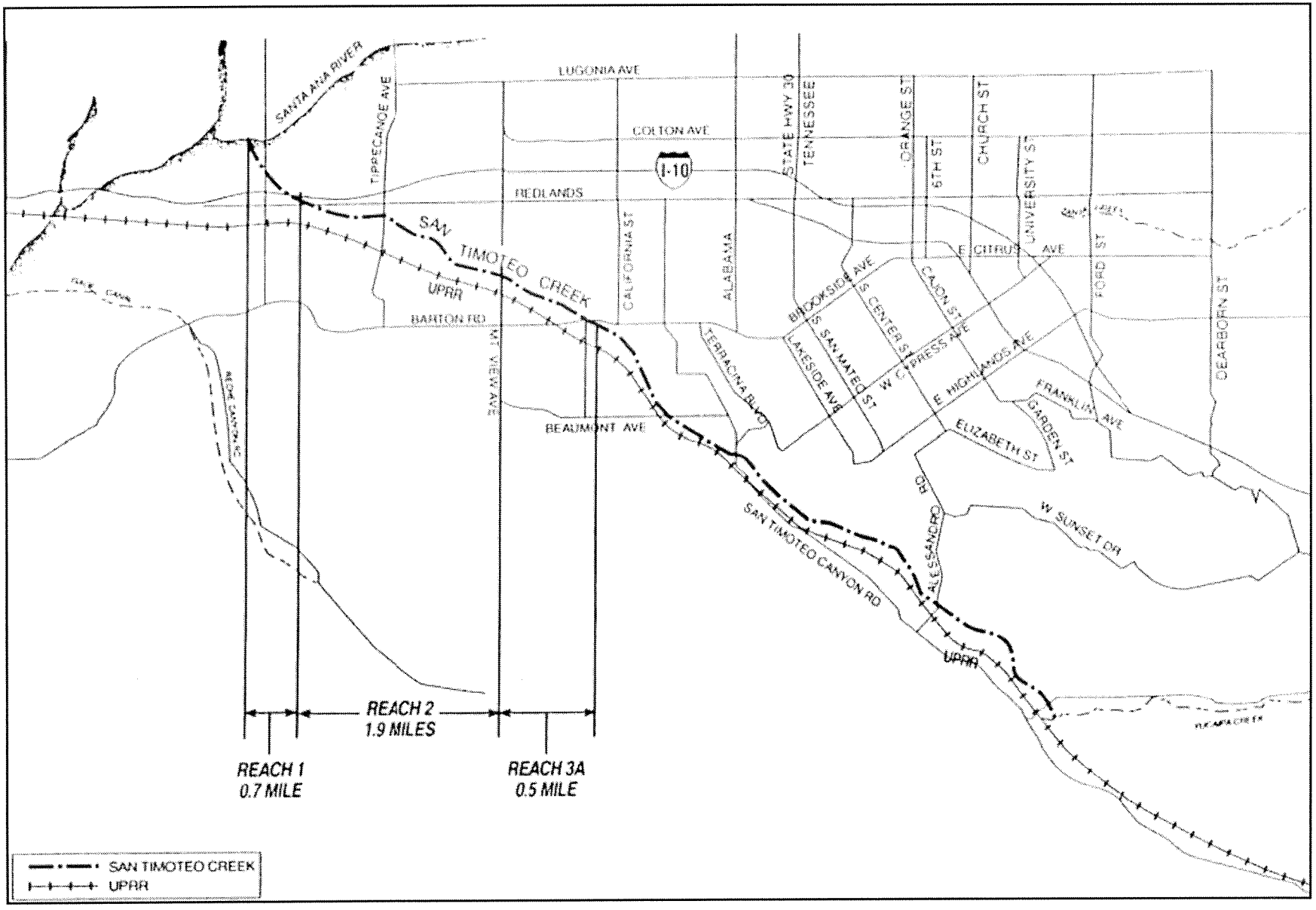
CORPORATION

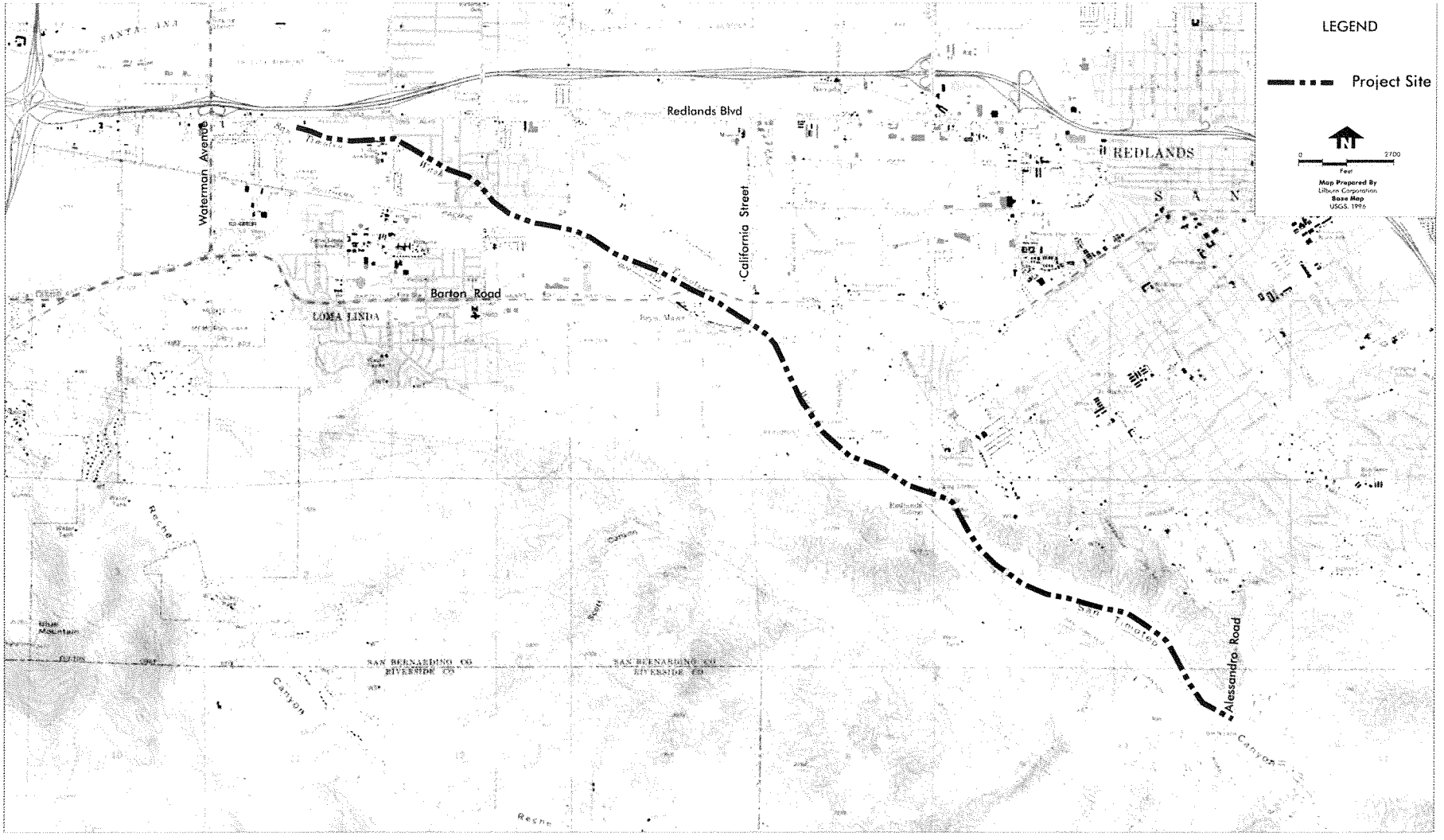


Completed Flood Control Improvments

San Timoteo Creek - Habitat Enhancement Project
Cities of Loma Linda and Redlands
San Bernardino County, California

Prepared By
LILBURN CORPORATION

Figure 2



Vicinity Map

San Timoteo Creek - Habitat Enhancement Project
Cities of Loma Linda and Redlands
San Bernardino County, California

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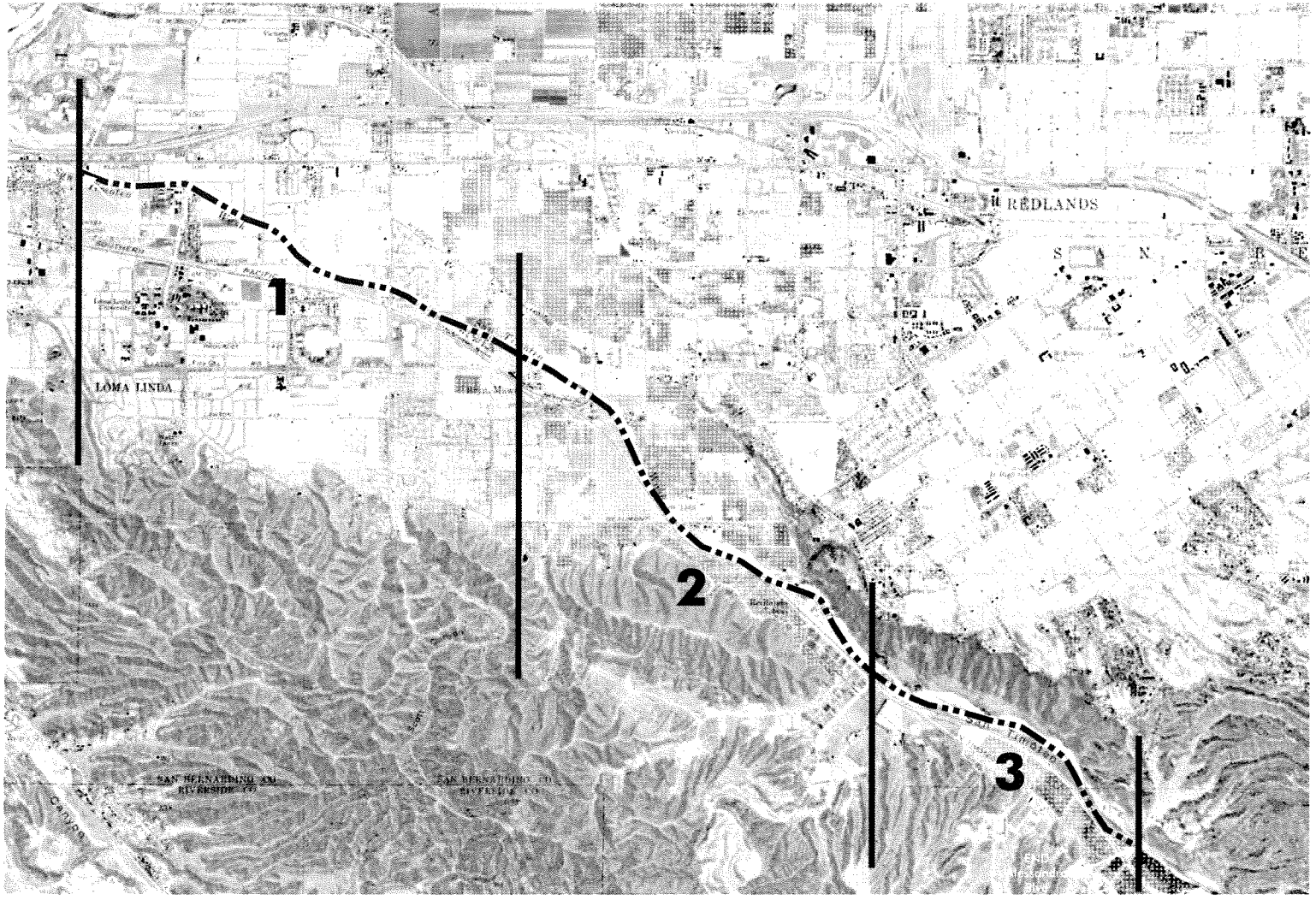
Figure 3



Project Focus Area Boundaries

San Timoteo Creek - Habitat Enhancement Project
Cities of Loma Linda and Redlands
San Bernardino County, California

Prepared by
LILBURN
CORPORATION

Figure 4

wildlife habitat potential for the corridor, primarily for avian species. A key component of this restoration is the coordination with other local property owners, including Loma Linda University, to ensure the compatibility of the habitat with the character and uses of adjacent properties.

Focus Area Two

Focus Area Two is situated immediately to the east of Focus Area One, stretching from the Barton Bridge to San Timoteo Canyon Road to the east. Focus Area Two will involve the restoration of land along this reach of San Timoteo Creek, between the USACE project and the anticipated Caltrans Cooperative Training and Assistance Program (CTAP) roadway project. The CTAP project is still in the planning phase and the project timeline, projected at about ten years, limits the potential impact of the EPA grant on this project. The precise route, which has not yet been determined, will substantially affect the location of the proposed wildlife corridor on the east bank of the Creek. Thus the EPA grant presents an opportunity for the planning departments of the Cities of Loma Linda and Redlands to participate in the route decision, representing the interests of the wildlife corridor in the planning process. Three properties covering less than 1/2-acre and lying within the City of Loma Linda south of California Street are being considered for acquisition. Other properties under private ownership would be required for easements or common use permits.

Focus Area Three

Focus Area Three is immediately east of Focus Area Two and is within the City of Redlands. The area stretches from the San Timoteo Canyon Bridge to the Riverside County boundary line. The proposed scope for this area integrates land acquisition and habitat restoration by maintenance of existing open space lands. Proposed for this Focus Area is the acquisition of some large parcels adjoining the north side of the San Timoteo Creek, for habitat protection purposes. Funding for this portion of work is anticipated to come from EPA grant funds, donation of City of Redlands properties, private property donations and in kind fees.

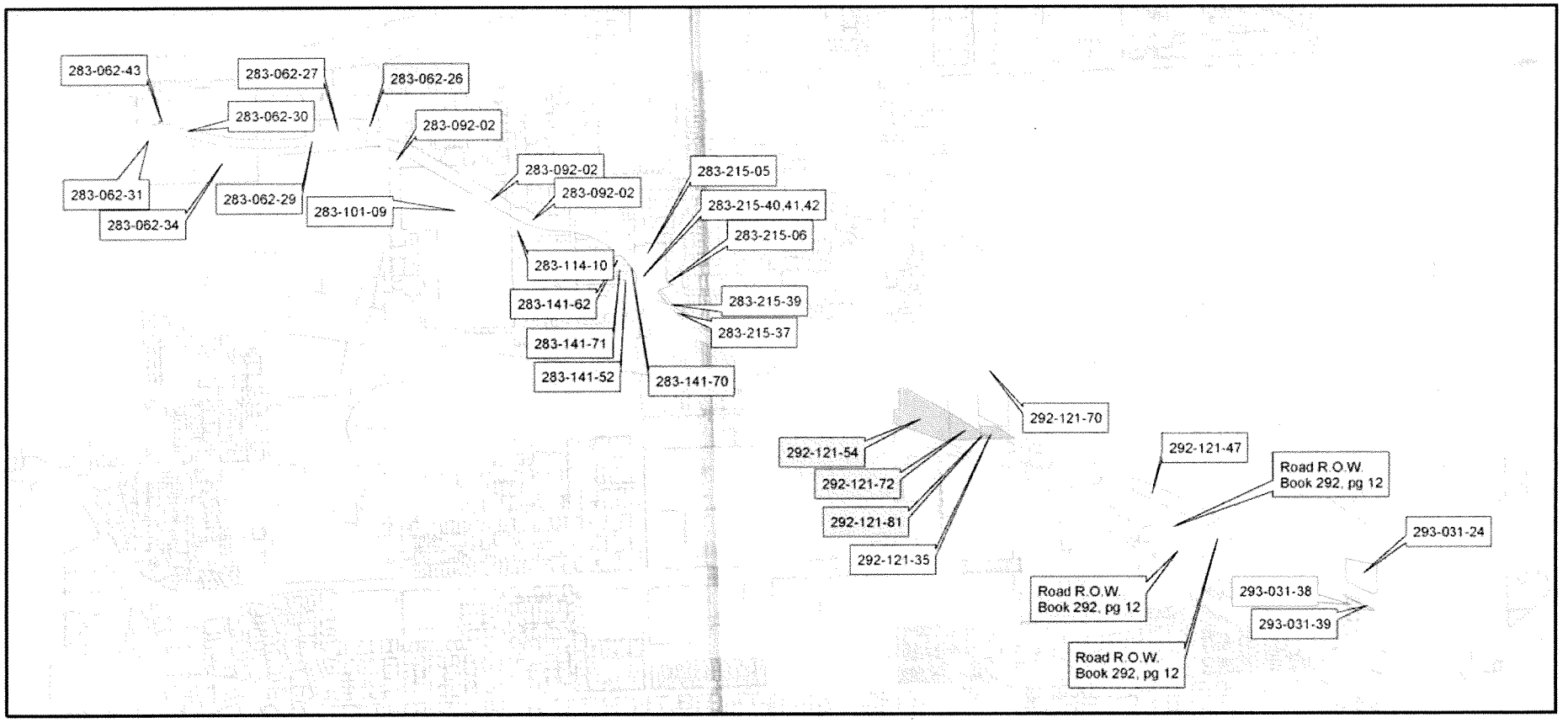
Table 1 lists the parcels proposed for the project and existing land use designations. The locations of these parcels are shown on Figures 5 and 6.

Table 1
Existing Land Uses and Zoning
For San Timoteo Creek Habitat Enhancement Project

PARCELS	JURISDICTION	EXISTING LAND USE
283-062-26	City of Loma Linda	Commercial
283-062-27	City of Loma Linda	Commercial
283-062-29	City of Loma Linda	Commercial
283-062-30	City of Loma Linda	Commercial
283-062-31	City of Loma Linda	Special Planning Area: Mixed Use
283-062-34	City of Loma Linda	Special Planning Area: Mixed Use
283-062-43	City of Loma Linda	Commercial
283-092-02	City of Loma Linda	Special Planning Area: Mixed Use
283-101-09	City of Loma Linda	Special Planning Area: Mixed Use
283-114-10	City of Loma Linda	Medium Density Residential
283-141-52	City of Loma Linda	Medium Density Residential
283-141-62	City of Loma Linda	Medium Density Residential
283-141-70	City of Loma Linda	Medium Density Residential
283-141-71	City of Loma Linda	Medium Density Residential
283-215-05	City of Loma Linda	Medium Density Residential

PARCELS	JURISDICTION	EXISTING LAND USE
283-215-06	City of Loma Linda	Medium Density Residential
283-215-37	City of Loma Linda	Low Density Residential
283-215-39	City of Loma Linda	Low Density Residential
283-215-40	City of Loma Linda	Low Density Residential
283-215-41	City of Loma Linda	Low Density Residential
283-215-42	City of Loma Linda	Low Density Residential
292-121-35	City of Loma Linda	Public Open Space
292-121-47	City of Loma Linda	Barton Road R-O-W
292-121-54	City of Loma Linda	Business Park
292-121-70	City of Loma Linda	Public Open Space
292-121-72	City of Loma Linda	Business Park
292-121-81	City of Loma Linda	Business Park
293-031-24	City of Loma Linda	Mixed Use
293-031-38	City of Loma Linda	Medium Density Residential
293-031-39	City of Loma Linda	Medium Density Residential
175-011-76	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation
175-011-77	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation
294-091-07	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation
294-091-33	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation
175-122-06	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation
175-131-14	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation
175-221-07	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation
175-231-01	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation
175-241-01	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation
174-251-04	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation
175-011-62	City of Redlands	Parks and Golf Courses
175-122-11	City of Redlands	Parks and Golf Courses
175-131-01	City of Redlands	Parks and Golf Courses
175-131-18	City of Redlands	Parks and Golf Courses
294-121-31	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation
175-011-22	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation
175-011-60	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation
175-011-36	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation
175-011-61	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation
175-011-61	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation
175-011-18	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation
175-011-63	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation
175-122-12	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation
175-022-08	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation
294-091-34	City of Redlands	Resource Preservation

Source: "Redlands General Plan", July 2005: http://www.ci.redlands.ca.us/plans/general_plan_map.htm
"City of Loma Linda Draft General Plan", July 2005: http://www.ci.loma-linda.ca.us



Legend

- Private
- CA State
- L.L. University
- Loma Linda
- San Bernardino County Flood Control District
- Conditioned
- San Bernardino County Transportation

Potential Restoration Parcels

Potential Acquisition Funds Needed -
9.5 acres - $325,000 additional funds needed

Army Corps of Engineers
Right of Way north of San Timoteo Creek

0 0.25 Miles

Loma Linda Parcels

San Timoteo Creek - Habitat Enhancement Project
Cities of Loma Linda and Redlands
San Bernardino County, California

Figure 5

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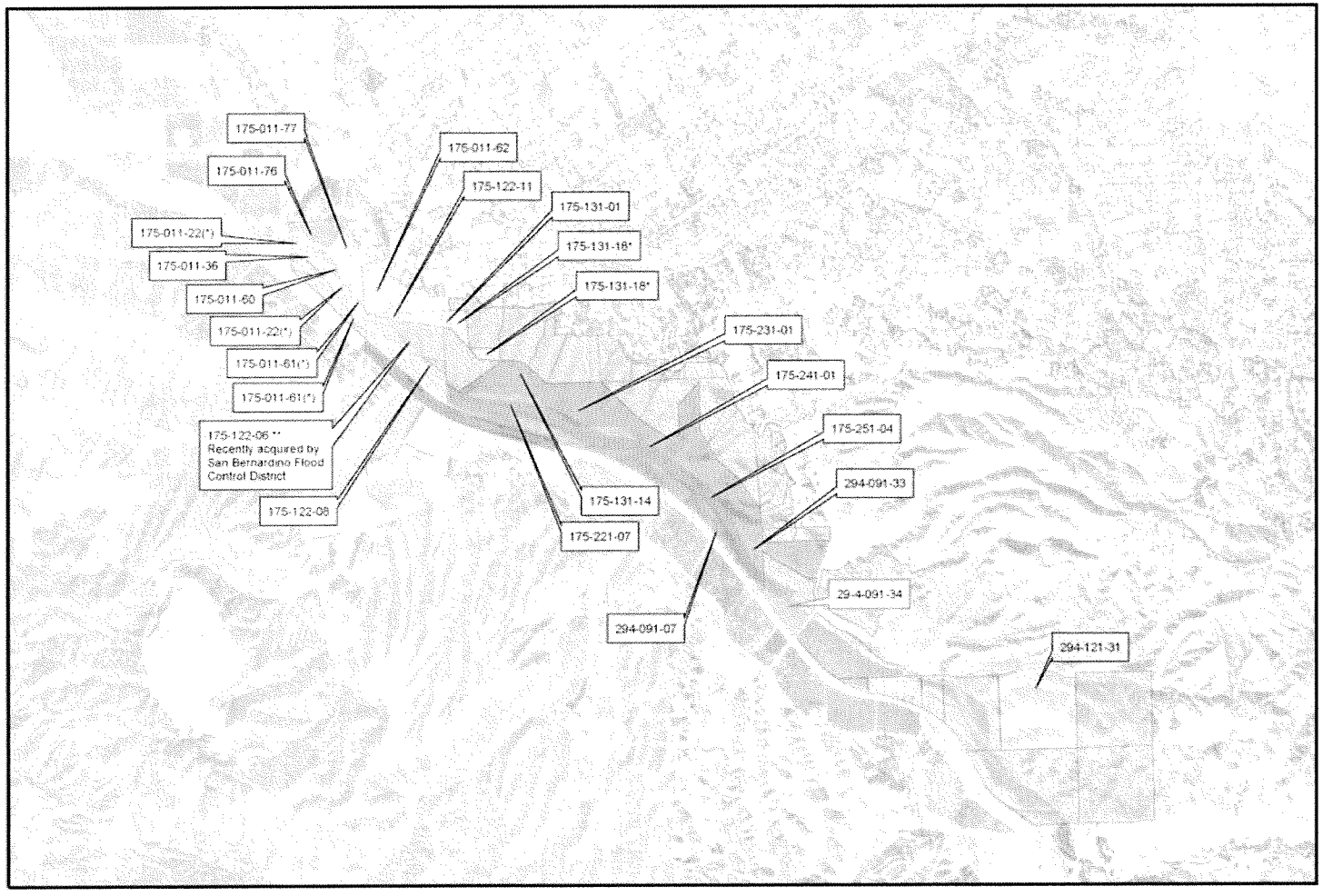


Source:The Dangermound Group, 7/30/05.

Redlands Parcels

San Timoteo Creek - Habitat Enhancement Project
Cities of Loma Linda and Redlands
San Bernardino County, California

LILBURN CORPORATION

Figure 6

Revegetation Plan

The proposed revegetation plan prepared for the parcels within the City of Loma Linda illustrates the existing and proposed vegetation along the creek. On average a 20-foot wide setback will be maintained from the edge of the creek to the revegetation boundary. Detailed drawings of the conceptual plan are attached as Appendix A, "San Timoteo Creek Enhancement Project, Proposed Revegetation Plan, Loma Linda, California" prepared by The Dangermond Group in June 2005. The largest parcels proposed for revegetation are properties of Loma Linda University with a total acreage of approximately 6.5 acres. Over 5.5 acres of vacant land within the right-of-way of Barton Road is also proposed for revegetation with native species. No revegetation will occur on the parcels in Redlands; all are currently maintained as open space and support native vegetation. Therefore, a revegetation plan has not been developed for those properties.

Surrounding Land Uses

The project area falls within the jurisdictions of the City of Loma Linda, the City of Redlands and the County of San Bernardino. The land uses along the creek vary throughout the proposed project area. The portion of the channel in Loma Linda has been affected by urbanization. Surrounding land uses in the City of Loma Linda include commercial, institutional, business park and open space. The City of Redlands General Plan designates large expanses of open space along the Creek. These areas are designated as Resource Preservation and Flood Control/Construction Aggregate Conservation/Habitat Preservation. The zoning for the surrounding properties in Redlands varies from Agriculture (A-1) to Rural Agriculture (R-A).

GLOSSARY – The following abbreviations are used in this report:

Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CTAP	Cooperative Training and Assistance Program
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
MSHCP	Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan
NCCP	Natural Communities Conservation Planning
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
SAWPA	Santa Ana River Water Project Authority
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Geology /Soils
☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☐ Hydrology / Water Quality	☐ Land Use/ Planning
☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Noise	☐ Population / Housing
☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation/Traffic
☐ Utilities / Service Systems	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance	

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation, the following finding is made:

☒ The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ The proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Deborah Woodruff — 11-01-05

Signature – Lead Agency (City of Loma Linda) — Date

Cheryl A. Tubbs — 11/01/05

Signature – Preparer (Lilburn Corporation) — Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Pursuant to Section 15063 of CEQA Guidelines, an explanation is required for all "Potentially Significant Impact," "Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated," and "Less Than Significant Impact" answers, including a discussion of ways to mitigate the significant effects identified.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS — Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

a-c) The project would enhance and revegetate a 30-foot wide corridor along San Timoteo Creek between Redlands Boulevard and Alessandro Road. This proposed enhancement of habitat for impacted segments of San Timoteo Creek would have no adverse impacts to scenic vistas, scenic resources, or the visual character of the proposed project sites. On the contrary, the proposed project will improve the surrounding visual environment through restoration and revegetation. Therefore, there would be no impact.

d) The project does not include any source of light and would not produce any glare. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES — In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

a,c) The proposed project is a habitat enhancement and restoration plan on an approximately 30-foot wide corridor along San Timoteo Creek between Redlands Boulevard and Alessandro Road. The project falls within the jurisdictions of the cities of Loma Linda and Redlands, and the County of San Bernardino. Areas along San Timoteo Creek would be re-established as a wildlife corridor with native vegetation.

According to Figure 2.1 of the City of Loma Linda General Plan, the City does not contain any agricultural-designated land uses. The County has an agricultural preserve in the City of Loma Linda's Sphere of Influence. No active Williamson Act Agreements are currently in place or expiring within the project area. Therefore, the western portion of the proposed project would have no impact on agricultural resources.

The City of Redlands General Plan designates "Resource Preservation" areas in order to maintain and preserve the open space and natural areas within the city limits. According to Figure 7.3 of the City of Redlands General Plan, the parcels in the eastern reach of San Timoteo Creek are zoned as agricultural lands. The proposed project is compatible with this designation and no change of land use is required for the project. The project does not require conversion of any Farmlands and hence there would be no impact to existing agricultural resources.

b) There are no lands within the project boundaries or in close proximity to the project area that are existing agricultural use or have active Williamson Act Agreements on them. Therefore, there would be no impact from the placement of portions of the enhancement project on or next to Williamson Act Contract land.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. AIR QUALITY — Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

a-e) The project consists of the restoration and revegetation of San Timoteo Creek habitat on a 30-foot wide corridor between Redlands Boulevard and Alessandro Road. The proposed project would require initial use of compactors, loaders and other equipment for site preparation. The project would not require regular use of equipment, as maintenance would be undertaken manually. Therefore, any air quality emissions would be minimal and temporary. There would be no increase in traffic in the area as a result of the proposed vegetation enhancement project. No significant impact to an air quality plan or standard would occur. There will not be any generation or concentration of air pollutants or any objectionable odors as a result of this project. Therefore, there would be no impact to air quality.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES — Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

The proposed project is a habitat restoration and enhancement plan for areas lying along San Timoteo Creek on a 30-foot wide corridor. This section describes the flora and fauna within the San Timoteo Creek Habitat Enhancement Project. Biological resources are discussed in terms of vegetation types, wildlife habitat, and species that have been observed or that have the potential to occur within the study area. The following information was adapted from Section 3.3 Biological Resources of the *Santa Ana River Mainstem Project, Including Santiago Creek, San Timoteo Creek Reach 3B Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report*, prepared by KEA Environmental Inc. in October 2000.

a) Animal and plant species are designated as sensitive because of their overall rarity, endangerment, unique habitat requirements, and or restricted distribution. In general, it is a combination of these factors that leads to a sensitivity designation.

Sensitive Plants

The USFWS conducted a plant survey on foot along San Timoteo Creek and associated terraces between Barton Road and Alessandro Road in June, October, and December of 1998. During the survey, the extent and quality of Riversidian alluvial fan sage scrub vegetation within the area were assessed. All plant species were recorded. A record search of the California Natural Diversity Database Rarefind Program and the CNPS *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants* was also conducted to identify any known locations of the target plant species within the area.

No sensitive plant species were observed during the surveys. However, some of the sensitive plant species may not have been detectable because of the seasonal timing of these surveys. Table 1 of the report (included in *Santa Ana River Mainstem Project Including Santiago Creek-San Timoteo Creek Reach 3B* EIS/EIR, Volume II) lists special-status plant species with the potential to occur within the proposed Habitat Enhancement project. Based on the disturbed condition of the habitats that are typically associated with these species, it is unlikely that any of these plants occur.

During the 1998 investigation of San Timoteo Creek, USFWS conducted a survey for slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*), an endangered host plant for the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*), and other rare plants associated with the Quino checkerspot butterfly. Specific host plants for the Quino checkerspot that were targeted by this survey were California plantain (*Plantago erecta*), woolly plantain (*Plantago ovata*), and owl's clover (*Castilleja exserta*). Although June is typically late in the year for detection of *Plantago* ssp., conditions during the spring of 1998 were favorable and *Plantago* would have still been detected if it existed in the area; none was found.

Wildlife

Prior to the 1998 site visit, a list of sensitive USFWS and CDFG species was compiled. No host plants for the Quino checkerspot butterfly were detected during the plant survey. Due to the lack of host plants and the general topography of the site (no opportunities for hill-topping behavior), it is unlikely that the Quino

checkerspot butterfly occurs within the enhancement area. Six sensitive animal species were observed along San Timoteo Creek during surveys, including three bird species, two reptile species, and one mammal species.

The bird species observed included: the yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia morcomi*) and yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens auricollis*), both of which are considered species of Special Concern by the State, and the blue-gray gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*), which does not have a Federal or state designation but which is considered to be declining locally. The reptile species observed were the western whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris*) and orange-throated whiptail (*Aspidoscelis hyperytha*) lizards, both of which are considered Federal Species of Concern. The only sensitive mammal species detected was the mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), a game species regulated by the State.

California Gnatcatcher Surveys

A series of nine visits between October and February 1998 to all coastal sage scrub and bordering dispersal habitats were made to determine the presence or absence of the coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*). No California gnatcatchers were observed or detected during the surveys, although one pair of blue-gray gnatcatchers was observed or detected on three occasions in the most intact stands of gnatcatcher habitat. The results of the focused survey and the presence of blue-gray gnatcatchers indicate that the California gnatcatcher probably does not currently occupy the proposed Habitat Enhancement Project area.

Least Bell's Vireo Surveys

A total of eight focused surveys for the Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) were conducted for the species during the breeding season (March 15 through September 30), targeting the optimal period from April 15 through June 15, 1999.

Even though suitable riparian habitat exists along San Timoteo Creek, no least Bell's vireos were observed or detected during the breeding season. However, an incidental detection of a singing male least Bell's vireo was made approximately 10,000 feet upstream of San Timoteo Canyon Road in mid-July by San Bernardino County Museum personnel conducting upland mammal surveys in areas adjacent to the study area. Nesting activity was not confirmed, and no prior or subsequent detections were made during the focused surveys for the species. This one detection suggests that the individual was a migrant. Although the species was observed during the 1998 breeding season and immediately upstream and downstream of Alessandro Road, the area immediately downstream of Alessandro Road is no longer considered suitable for nesting due to riparian removal from the channel to allow for increased capacity for flood control. Additional nesting habitat, however, is potentially still present within and adjacent to portions of the Creek.

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Surveys

Focused surveys for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) were conducted between April 22 and July 23, 1999 during the breeding season. No southwestern willow flycatchers were observed or detected during the focused surveys, although the species was observed during the 1998 season immediately upstream and downstream of Alessandro Road. The downstream location is no longer considered suitable nesting habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher due to riparian habitat removal from the channel to allow for increased capacity for flood control. Additional nesting habitat, however, is potentially still present within and adjacent to portions of the Creek.

San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat Surveys

A San Bernardino kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*) live-trapping study was conducted by the USFWS on five consecutive nights between December 7 and December 12, 1998. Five distinct habitat patches or fragments of alluvial fan sage scrub were selected for the survey.

A total of 65 traps were operated on the nights of the survey. No San Bernardino kangaroo rats were captured during the surveys. From a total of 985 captures of small mammals, 204 unique individual small mammals representing five different native species were trapped. The five native species represented

through the trapping efforts included: white-footed deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), San Diego kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys simulans*), California pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus californicus*), California vole (*Microtus californicus*), and western harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys megalotis*). Twenty-two additional captures were house mice (*Mus musculus*), a non-native species. All of the species captured were typical of coastal Southern California habitats. None of the five native species captured are considered sensitive by state or Federal agencies.

The abundance and diversity of animals captured within each habitat patch varied, likely due to differing habitat quality. Capture rates were high despite the temperature being near freezing each night. In addition, all trapped California pocket mice, which normally are inactive during cold or adverse weather conditions, were very alert and active. These two facts suggest that San Bernardino kangaroo rat would have been active if present and that trap checks were frequent enough to sufficiently reduce risks due to the cold weather.

Arroyo Southwestern Toad Surveys

Focused surveys for the arroyo southwestern toad (*Bufo californicus*) were conducted during the 1999 breeding season between April 14 and June 30. Although secondhand data of arroyo southwestern toad vocalizations from San Timoteo Creek have been reported to the San Bernardino County Museum, project-specific surveys of the Creek indicate that the report of vocalizations remains unconfirmed. Based on the completed surveys and data from the 1998 breeding season, San Timoteo Creek is not expected to support breeding arroyo southwestern toads.

Much of the habitat described above was temporarily or permanently impacted by the USACE floodway improvement project. Past Biological investigations conducted within the project area indicated that no endangered or threatened species were present. However, the San Bernardino County Museum has found Least Bell's vireo and Southwestern willow flycatcher, both listed as federal and State Endangered species, nesting near the creek corridor upstream and downstream of Alessandro Road (communication from Jim Borcuk, S.B. County Flood Control District, September 2005).

The proposed project will re-establish and enhance the habitat by providing for a wildlife corridor. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated from the project.

b,c) Riparian communities occur along stream courses and drainages, and are floristically and structurally distinct from the adjacent upland communities. Riparian communities may be floristically similar to each other, but may differ sufficiently in structure to warrant different classifications (e.g. forest, woodlands, and scrub). Most riparian species are restricted to areas of high water table (e.g. drainages), and require moist, bare mineral soils for germination and establishment, much like the conditions following periodic flooding.

Wetlands serve many functions, including flood and sediment control, habitat for rare and common species, corridors for wildlife movement, and control of water quality and erosion. The value of riparian and wetland communities, combined with their loss and degradation, have resulted in the need to protect these communities. Riparian and wetland communities within San Timoteo Creek include southern cottonwood willow riparian forest, southern willow scrub, mulefat scrub, elderberry savanna, and freshwater marsh.

Riparian and wetland communities are considered sensitive by the CDFG. Wetland habitat is under the jurisdiction of the USACE pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972 as amended in 1977 and 1984. Riparian habitat is regulated by the CDFG, pursuant to Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code. Riparian woodlands are considered special habitat by San Bernardino County. Southern riparian scrub (e.g. mulefat scrub and elderberry savanna), southern willow scrub, and southern cottonwood willow riparian forest are all identified as natural communities of special concern by the City of Redlands. The City of Loma Linda does not specify additional protection for habitats beyond what is provided by the state and Federal resources agencies.

The following riparian and wetland communities are located along San Timoteo Creek within the project area as identified in the *Santa Ana River Mainstem Project, Including Santiago Creek, San Timoteo Creek Reach 3B Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report*:

Southern Cottonwood-Willow Riparian Forest

The riparian forest within San Timoteo Creek is rather dense and dominated by arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), Goodding's black willow (*Salix gooddingii*), and red willow (*Salix laevigata*) with western cottonwood (*Populus fremontii* ssp. *Fremontii*) occurring to a lesser extent. These species are also represented in the understory along with narrow-leaved willow (*Salix exigua*), mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), and cattails (*Typha* spp.). The most dense riparian forest is located upstream of San Timoteo Canyon Road, along the outer portions of the active channel, and are not as frequently or intensely scoured. Downstream of San Timoteo Canyon Road, several extremely small, isolated stands of willows and cottonwoods exist.

Southern Willow Scrub

Southern willow scrub is a dense, broad-leaved, winter deciduous riparian thicket dominated by several species of willows (*Salix* spp.) in association with mulefat. This is an early seral (dry) community (i.e. the vegetation structure and composition is in a successional state that may change over time). It requires periodic flooding for its maintenance. In the absence of periodic flooding, this community would develop into riparian woodland or forest. Arroyo willow, Goodding's black willow, red willow, narrow-leaved willow, and mulefat all occur within this community along San Timoteo Creek. This community is best represented upstream of San Timoteo Canyon Road, where the Creek channel is relatively broad, groundwater levels are high, and surface flows are present. Downstream of San Timoteo Canyon Road, willows are scattered along the edges of the Creek's channel, in some instances forming a narrow linear patch of habitat.

Mulefat Scrub

Mulefat scrub is a riparian shrub community that is strongly dominated by mulefat, in association with the aforementioned species of willows. In the absence of periodic flooding, this community would develop into a riparian woodland or forest. Similar to the other riparian and wetland communities occurring along the Creek, mulefat scrub is most represented upstream of San Timoteo Canyon Road, where the Creek channel is relatively broad, groundwater levels are high, and surface flows are present. Downstream of San Timoteo Canyon Road, individuals of mulefat are scattered along the edges of the Creek's channel, in some instances forming a long, narrow linear patch of habitat.

Along the upstream portion of the Creek, where the channel is at its widest and water is readily available, the channel proper is vegetated with a high cover and density of juvenile mulefat, willows, and a few cottonwoods. The height of this vegetation ranges from one to three feet.

Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh

Coastal and valley freshwater marsh is a community dominated by perennial, emergent monocots (flowering plants that have one seed leaf), which grow in standing fresh water. Three areas of freshwater marsh were observed within the study area of the USACE flood improvement project. The first occurs in a swale adjacent to Barton Road, next to a storage facility at the downstream limit of the study area. The second occurs in a small depression just to the northeast of San Timoteo Canyon Road Bridge. The third and largest area of this habitat occurs within the Creek between San Timoteo Canyon Road and Alessandro Road. Cattails are the sole species dominant at both of these sites.

Elderberry Savanna

Elderberry savanna is a riparian scrub community. This community is an open, winter deciduous shrub savanna, dominated by Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*). The understory is dominated by exotic annual grasses and forbs, such as annual bursage (*Ambrosia acanthicarpa*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), wild oats (*Avena barbata*), and red brome (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *Rubens*). Elderberry savanna occurs on deep, fine-textured alluvial soils along the upper floodplains of streams and rivers where they are not actively

scoured yet still subjected to periodic flooding. Elderberry savanna is a seral community, succeeding to riparian forests in the absence of continued grazing, flooding, and/or fire. This community occurs in two areas: on the southern floodplain of San Timoteo Creek, just upstream and just downstream of the Beaumont Avenue where a new bridge will be constructed by 2006.

Disturbed Wetlands

Disturbed wetlands are communities that are dominated by exotic species. These species have invaded the sites that had been previously disturbed or are periodically disturbed by flood control activities. This perturbation regime has resulted in the displacement of native wetland species and the subsequent colonization of these areas by exotics. A small area of disturbed wetlands occurs along upper San Timoteo Creek and is dominated almost exclusively by American brookline (*Veronica americana*).

Unvegetated Channel

Much of the Creek channel proper from immediately upstream of San Timoteo Canon Road to the flood control channel downstream at Barton Road is unvegetated. These are, however, small patches of juvenile willows and mulefat scattered along the otherwise unvegetated portion of the Creek, especially where there is a semi-permanent source of water from urban and/or agricultural runoff. However, the absence of any mature individuals suggests that a low groundwater table in the downstream portions of San Timoteo Creek prohibit the establishment of sustainable wetland habitat.

As no sensitive species have been found in the area and the proposed project will not induce or eliminate potential habitat, no impacts are expected.

d) In an urban context, a wildlife corridor can be defined as a linear landscape feature of sufficient width and buffer to allow animal movement between two patches of comparatively undisturbed habitat, or between a patch of habitat and some vital resources. USFWS defined regional corridors as those linking two or more large areas of natural open space, and local corridors as those allowing resident animals to access critical resources (food, cover, and water) in a smaller area that might otherwise be isolated by urban development.

Wildlife corridors are essential in geographically diverse settings, and especially in urban settings, for the sustenance of healthy and genetically diverse animal communities. At a minimum, they promote colonization of habitat and genetic variability by connecting fragments of like habitat, and help sustain individual species distributed in and among habitat fragments. Habitat fragments, by definition, are separated by otherwise foreign or inhospitable habitats, such as urban/suburban tracts. Isolation of populations can have many harmful effects and may contribute significantly to local species extinction.

A viable wildlife corridor consists of more than a path between habitat areas. To provide food and cover for transient species as well as resident populations of less mobile animals, a wildlife corridor must also include pockets of vegetation. Fully functional wildlife corridors linking the Santa Ana River and Prado Basins to the west with the San Bernardino, San Gorgonio, and San Jacinto Mountains to the east are few. Because their habitat value is reduced, it would require considerable effort and expense to open and restore these corridors.

The San Timoteo watercourse is the last major drainage system in the Inland Empire that provides for the opportunity to restore and enhance wildlife corridors and avian habitat. Other systems, such as the Santa Ana River, have planned recreational facilities (e.g. trails), or other adjacent lands uses that would not be compatible with the establishment and enhancement of wildlife habitat. San Timoteo Creek's remaining riparian vegetation is particularly important for migratory avian species.

In 1995, the USACE funded USFWS to complete a study on the use of San Timoteo Creek as a wildlife corridor. Field efforts to detect large mammal use areas within and adjacent to the USACE project area (San Timoteo Creek between the Santa Ana River and Alessandro Road) involved placement of five track pads in four locations. Although no large mammals were detected, coyote presence was recorded at each site. Evidence of bobcat, non-native opossum (*Didelphus marsupialis*), and raccoon (*Procyon*

lotor) was also noted at the confluence of San Timoteo Creek with the Santa Ana River. In the absence of animal-specific tracking, however, this study failed to clarify the extent to which San Timoteo Creek actually functions as a corridor. That is, the visitation documented on the track pads could all have been from upland sites adjacent to the Creek.

Whether for terrestrial wildlife movement or for permanent residence, San Timoteo Creek presently provides a rather poor wildlife corridor due to the lack of adequate vegetative cover, foraging habitat, or nesting strata. This stems from a long-term history of herding, orchard, agrarian, and more recent urban and suburban activities. The San Timoteo Creek floodplain, specifically, has been the focus of continued, albeit low-density, human activity, over a hundred years.

Habitat reduction within and immediately adjacent to the Creek has also resulted from the scouring effects of storm flows combined with the San Bernardino County Flood Control District's necessary flood control maintenance/clearing operations. Intensified urbanization downstream and associated urban edge effects (increased noise, meso-predation and nest parasitism) have also contributed to reduced functioning of San Timoteo Creek as a viable wildlife corridor.

Along with the USACE's construction of a concrete channel, a dedicated wildlife corridor along the entire length of the Creek Channel in the north bank of Reaches 1, 2 and 3A areas, except at the Beaumont Avenue and San Timoteo Canyon Road Bridge crossings, was also developed. This corridor was vegetated with native, drought-tolerant, upland plant species, including coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), Mexican elderberry, toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), and California sage (*Artemisia californica*), among others. The intent of the project mitigation was to establish and maintain an area for wildlife movement along the Creek.

The nature of this proposed project is to further enhance the natural corridor potential of San Timoteo Creek by providing the needed vegetative cover, foraging habitat, and nesting strata within the City of Loma Linda. The revegetation would occur based on the concept plans developed by Dangermond Group and attached as Appendix A. The City of Redlands has maintained the area along the Creek as open space and does not require revegetation at this time. *Therefore, there would be no adverse impacts to the fish or wildlife species.*

e,f) The San Timoteo Creek Habitat Enhancement Project is proposed to protect important biological resources. Currently, no adopted Habitat Conservation Plans exist within the area of the proposed project. Therefore, there would be no impacts or conflicts with local, regional, or states habitat conservation plans, policies, or ordinances.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. COMMUNITY RESOURCES — Would the project:				
a) Cause disruption of orderly planned development?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Be consistent with a Coastal Zone Management Plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Affect life-styles, or neighborhood character or stability?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Affect minority, low-income, elderly, disabled, transit-dependent, or other interest groups?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Affect employment, industry, or commerce, or require the displacement of businesses or farms?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Affect property values or the local tax base?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h) Affect any community facilities (including medical, educational, scientific, or religious institutions, ceremonial sites or sacred shrines?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Result in alterations to waterborne, rail, or air traffic?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j) Support large commercial or residential development?	☐	☐	☐	☒
k) Affect wild or scenic rivers or natural landmarks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
l) Result in substantial impacts associated with construction activities (e.g. noise, dust, temporary drainage, traffic detours, and temporary access, etc.)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

a,d,h,j) The project consists of the enhancement of habitat along several portions of San Timoteo Creek. None of the potential properties that would be included for acquisition include planned residential communities. There would be no disruption of planned development, no division of established communities, nor would any community facilities be affected by the proposed project. The project would not support any large commercial or residential development. The land enhanced as a result of this project will be designated Open Space. Therefore, there would be no impact to planned development.

b) The proposed project is not located within a Coastal Zone and is therefore not subject to a Coastal Zone Management Plan of any sort. There would be no impact.

c,e) The project will not result in any changes to life-styles or neighborhood character or stability. It will consist of the enhancement and augmentation of the natural habitat potential of portions of San Timoteo Creek. No minority, low-income, elderly, disabled, transit-dependent, or any other special interest group will be adversely affected by the proposed project. There would be no impact.

f,g) No businesses or farms will be displaced as a result of this project. It will not affect employment, industry, or commerce. The designation of a wildlife corridor along the existing Creek Channel is not expected to affect property values or the local tax base. The enhancement project will include the acquisition of private property (in fee or easements). The cities of Loma Linda and Redlands will negotiate with property owners who have indicated a willingness to participate in the project. Therefore, there would be a less than significant impact.

i) There will be no alterations to waterborne, rail, or air traffic as a result of the enhancement of portions of San Timoteo Creek. Therefore, there would be no impact.

k) San Timoteo Creek is not designated as a wild or scenic river or natural landmark. Therefore, there would be no impact.

l) The proposed project plans for construction activity to be limited to the extension of existing water lines and planting of new vegetation in Loma Linda. The construction activity during enhancement preparation would occur during normal work hours and would be temporary. This would not result in significant impacts.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES — Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

The proposed project is a habitat enhancement and restoration plan on a 30-foot wide corridor setback 20-foot from the edge of the San Timoteo Creek in portions of Loma Linda, Redlands and the County. The maximum area of disturbance during the revegetation activities in Loma Linda would not exceed 30 feet. Areas along the Creek would be re-established as a wildlife corridor with native vegetation. For this purpose, the project requires-easement rights, common use agreements and land acquisition to gain access to the properties for revegetation and maintenance.

a-d) No prehistoric resources have been identified within the portions of San Timoteo Creek that will be included in this project. Two potential historic properties have been identified in previous investigations as reported in Section 3.7 Cultural Resources of the *Santa Ana River Mainstem Project, Including Santiago Creek, San Timoteo Creek Reach 3B Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report*, prepared by KEA Environmental Inc. in October 2000.

In 1985, Caltrans evaluated the Beaumont Bridge for its potential historic significance. Caltrans concluded that the bridge lacked historic merit on all levels. It was a common military-style bridge, and was not associated with any historic event in the San Timoteo Creek area. The bridge has since been removed to accommodate recent channel improvements. The County will most likely replace the bridge in the future, but it would not be considered a culturally significant structure.

The Vache-Brookside Winery is expected to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. Assuming that the winery is determined to be a National Register Eligible historic property, any effects to the property would be considered adverse. The winery property directly abuts the north side of the San Timoteo Creek channel near the Creek's intersection with San Timoteo Canyon Road. Although the proposed project includes the acquisition of several portions of land along the Creek, the area of land near the Vache-Brookside Winery is not included on the list of potential land acquisitions.

Therefore, there would be no impact to cultural resources.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS — Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18 1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

The proposed project is a revegetation plan along San Timoteo Creek and will not adversely disturb the existing geological and soil conditions. The project's impact on soil is recorded in the document "Evaluation of the Potential of San Timoteo Creek for Revegetation with Native Riparian Species" prepared by Revegetation & Wildlife Management Center, Inc in June 2004 (see Appendix B). Prevalent soil types in the project boundary are mainly sandy and generally suitable for riparian plant species. Revegetation of the 30-foot wide corridor would re-establish the native species suitable to create wildlife habitat. Construction activities are limited to irrigation system installation and planting; no structures would be built.

a) The project does not include any structures nor is there any anticipation of people living in the project area. Therefore, the project will not expose people or structures to adverse effects as a result of earthquakes and earthquake related events. There would be no impact.

b) There will be no substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil as a result of the proposed habitat enhancement along portions of San Timoteo Creek. Therefore, there would be no impact.

c,d) No habitable structures will be built as a result of the proposed habitat enhancement for segments of San Timoteo Creek. Soil stability would not be affected by this project. There would be no impact.

e) The project does not include septic tanks or wastewater disposal systems, therefore, there would be no impact.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS — Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☒	☐

SUBSTANTIATION:

a) In April 2004, Lilburn Corporation conducted a Phase I Site Assessment along the proposed project area. The discussion in this section is based on the report "San Timoteo Creek Habitat Enhancement Program Phase I Environmental Site Assessment" (see Appendix C). One site (APN# 175-251-04) contained numerous 55-gallon drums at the time of the Phase I site assessment but these were washed away during storm events of 2005 (per Dave Lorell, S.B. County Flood Control District). The drums were found to be mostly empty or filled with mud and did not result in any contamination on-site. The remaining properties surrounding the project do not appear to have been impacted by hazardous material or historical land uses that would impact the project detrimentally.

Prior to acquisition of the above-mentioned properties, no further investigation is warranted. No people or structures are planned for the proposed project area. The proposed project itself will not result in any impacts related to hazardous material. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b-d) A Phase I Site Assessment was prepared in April 2004 along the proposed project area. Historical aerial photographs of the project area were reviewed for signs of commercial, industrial, or other land uses or development on or near the project site that may impact the development to the proposed property for habitat enhancement or similar passive land uses. No signs of previous intense land use development or use that may impact the property were observed. Historical photos and hazardous material databases were also reviewed for any past negative impacts to the site; none were discovered.

A field observation was conducted in March of 2004. There was evidence of debris (lumber, coolers, sofas, etc.) along the northeastern portion of the site. Numerous 55-gallon drums were observed on properties north of the creek. Contents of the drums were unknown but did not appear to be leaking; these have since been washed away by storm events. Additionally, two above ground storage tanks were found. These tanks would be properly removed if the project included acquisition of the subject property. Mounds of trash were observed at various locations between California Street and Alessandro Road.

A Request for Records Research on the project area was submitted in February 2004 to the San Bernardino County Fire Department, Hazardous Materials Division. The department has been unable to perform the record search on the parcels as it was beyond the scope of the agency (correspondence dated July 2005). A review of Federal and State environmental databases revealed no environmental concerns or issues, which would be considered "an impairment" to the subject site. The Federal and State records search revealed nine leaking underground storage tanks within a one-mile radius; seven located north/northwest and two located south/southwest of the project area. Remediation has not been completed at these sites; however due to the nature of the project, they would not have an adverse impact to the proposed project. The project itself will not use any hazardous materials. Therefore no project related adverse impacts are anticipated.

e,f) According to both the City of Loma Linda General Plan and the City of Redlands General Plan, the project site is not located within the vicinity of an airport. The nearest airport is San Bernardino International Airport, located approximately three to five miles to the north of the project area. There would be no safety hazards from an airport to the proposed project. The project would not impact the airport.

g) The proposed project will not interfere with any emergency response or evacuation plans in the City of Loma Linda, the City of Redlands or the County of San Bernardino. No roadways or trails will be impacted by the proposed project. There would be no impact.

h) The proposed habitat enhancement project will create new foliage along the south side of the creek. There are pockets of lands containing residences that overlook the creek. The addition of plants will create more fuel during wildfires. This revegetation however, will provide for the replacement of vegetation in a more manageable setting than what existed historically. To reduce to the extent feasible,

any possible fire safety impacts, the County will continue maintenance activities for weed control and parcels within the City of Loma Linda will be irrigated.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY — Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

a,f) The enhancement of segments of San Timoteo Creek corridor will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. It will not degrade local or regional water quality, as there will be no runoff. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) The proposed project will have no impact on the groundwater supplies nor will it interfere with groundwater recharge. Irrigation systems that will be placed along the San Timoteo Creek corridor shall be serviced by the City of Loma Linda via extensions of existing water lines. The City of Loma Linda has indicated the ability to provide any project water needs. Properties within the City of Redlands will not be irrigated and therefore no new water structures will need to be constructed. There would be no impact.

c-e) In order to revegetate some areas along portions of the San Timoteo Creek corridor, minimal corridor grading may be required. These grading activities would not affect the drainage pattern along the Creek. The Creek itself will not be altered by the enhancement along portions of its banks. Land will only be graded for the purpose of and prior to revegetation within the 30-foot wide corridor. There would be no impact.

g-j) Though the project lies within the 100-year flood hazard area along San Timoteo Creek, no structures will be built as part of the project. There would be no exposure of people to flood danger as a result of the project. There is no threat of inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING — Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

The proposed project is a habitat enhancement and restoration plan on a 30-foot wide corridor along San Timoteo Creek between Redlands Boulevard and Alessandro Road. The project falls within the jurisdiction of the cities of Loma Linda, Redlands and the County of San Bernardino. Areas along the San Timoteo Creek would be re-established as a wildlife corridor with native vegetation. For this purpose, the project requires easement rights, common use agreements and land acquisition to gain access to the properties for revegetation and maintenance.

a) None of the potential project sites or parcels proposed for acquisition include planned residential communities. There would be no disruption of planned development, no division of established communities, nor would any community facilities be affected by the proposed project. The project would not support any large commercial or residential development. The land enhanced as a result of this

project will be used as open space. Also refer Community Resources a,d,h,j. Therefore, there would be no impact to land use, planning, or growth.

b,c) The parcels within Redlands are mostly designated for flood control/construction aggregate conservation/habitat preservation and Resource Preservation as per the General Plan Map[1]. Permitted uses on these parcels include water conservation, wildlife preservation, open space, recreation and agriculture. The City of Redlands' zoning plan designates this land as A-1 to provide for proper utilization of land best suited for agricultural purposes and prevent incompatible uses. The proposed enhancement and augmentation of habitat potential for portions of San Timoteo Creek does not conflict with any habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. Hence no adverse impacts are anticipated by the project.

The City of Loma Linda is currently undergoing a General Plan update, and the sites considered for the project are designated as proposed or existing mixed use, commercial, residential (medium density), business park and public open space. The proposed project does not conflict with any local general plan or land use ordinance as open space is an allowed use within each of these land use designations. The proposed enhancement and augmentation of habitat potential for portions of San Timoteo Creek does not conflict with any habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. Therefore, there would be no impact.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. MINERAL RESOURCES — Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

a,b) According to Figure 7.4 of the City of Redlands General Plan and Figure 2.1 of the City of Loma Linda General Plan, the proposed San Timoteo Creek Habitat Enhancement Project is not located within or in the vicinity of a mineral resource area. Therefore, implementation of the project would not result in the loss of availability of a known or locally important mineral resource. There would be no impact.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. NOISE — Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☐	☒

[1] Source: http://www.ci.redlands.ca.us/plans/general_plan_map.htm

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

a-d) The proposed enhancement along portions of the San Timoteo Creek corridor will not exceed the local noise standards or ordinances. It may be necessary to install irrigation systems along portions of the San Timoteo Creek corridor in order to properly care for new vegetation until it is firmly established. In order to revegetate some areas, minimal corridor grading and the use of planters may be required as well. These temporary activities may necessitate the use of construction equipment. Any construction activity would be temporary in nature and would not exceed City or County Noise standards. Individuals will not be exposed to excessive ground-borne vibrations or noise. There will not be any temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise as a result of the enhancement and augmentation of habitat potential for impacted segments of San Timoteo Creek. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

e,f) According to both the City of Loma Linda General Plan and the City of Redlands General Plan, the project site is not located within the vicinity of an airport. The nearest airport to the proposed project area is San Bernardino International Airport, located approximately three to five miles to the north. In addition, no people will be permanently working or residing in the project area. Therefore, no one will be exposed to excessive noise from nearby airports. There would be no impact.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING — Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

a) The proposed project would not support any large commercial or residential development. The land enhanced as a result of this project will be used as open space. The proposed enhancement along portions of the San Timoteo Creek corridor will not result in any increase in population. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b,c) None of the potential project properties or parcels proposed for acquisition include planned residential communities. The proposed project will require easement rights and common use agreements to operate and will not result in substantial displacement of housing or people. The proposed project area would be designated Open Space. Therefore, there would be no impact.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES —				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

a) The project would create a vegetated corridor along the creek, which may require regular maintenance to prevent fire hazards. The fire department of Loma Linda and Redlands are adequately equipped to handle this increased service. In addition, the vegetation will be implemented outside a 20-foot wide setback from the edge of San Timoteo Creek to allow access fire fire-fighting vehicles. The proposed project will not result in any adverse impacts to any other pubic services including police protection, schools and parks. There will not be a need for new or altered public facilities or services. Therefore, there would be no impact.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV. RECREATION —				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

a,b) The proposed San Timoteo Creek Habitat Enhancement Project will augment native vegetation suitable to the needs for establishing wildlife corridor. This would not increase the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or any other recreational facilities. Nor does the project itself include any additional recreational facilities or uses. Therefore, there would be no impact.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC — Would the project:				
a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

a,b,d-g) The project would not increase traffic on the existing street system as it does not propose any growth related activities. Therefore, the proposed vegetation enhancement along portions of the San Timoteo Creek corridor will have no adverse affects on vehicular traffic on any roads or highways. The project will not result in inadequate emergency access or parking capacity for the surrounding area. Therefore, the project will not affect the flow of vehicle or pedestrian traffic. The project will not impede the movement of bicycles along pathways adjacent to San Timoteo Creek. There would be no impact.

c) There will be no change in air traffic patterns nor is there a risk posed by the location of the proposed project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS — Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Be served by a landfill(s) with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

a-g) The proposed project implements revegetation on a 30-foot wide corridor along San Timoteo Creek. The planting palette would consist of native species that are drought resistance to the maximum extent possible and also combine the other exotic species associated with avian and other wildlife habitats in order to reduce the use of water for regular year-round maintenance of the vegetation. However, an irrigation system would be required to sustain vegetation considering the climate of the region. Irrigation

systems that would be placed along the San Timoteo Creek corridor shall be serviced by the City of Loma Linda via extensions of existing water lines. No new water structures will need to be constructed. Therefore, there would be no impact.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorp.	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE—				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

SUBSTANTIATION:

The proposed project is a habitat enhancement and restoration plan on a 30-foot wide corridor along San Timoteo Creek between Redlands Boulevard and Alessandro Road. The project falls within the jurisdiction of the cities of Loma Linda and Redlands, and the County of San Bernardino. Areas along San Timoteo Creek would be re-established as a wildlife corridor with native vegetation.

a) Due to the nature of the proposed project, it will be enhancing the quality of the environment, allowing plant and wildlife species to ideally experience population growth. The project would also serve to re-establish significant portions of one of the last wildlife corridors in southern California. There would be no negative impacts to any rare or endangered species, nor would the project negatively affect resources of California history or prehistory.

b) Overtime, there would ideally be an increase in wildlife, vegetation, and populations of threatened and endangered species within the vicinity of the proposed project area as well as a more diverse community of wildlife species. There would also be an improvement in riparian and wetland habitat in the vicinity of the proposed project area. There would be no negative cumulative impacts.

c) The proposed project will have no direct negative impact on human beings. The only indirect, potentially negative impact is related to the addition of vegetation along San Timoteo Creek that may become additional fuel during wildfires. This revegetation however, will provide for the replacement of vegetation in a more manageable setting than what existing historically. To reduce to the extent feasible, any possible fire safety impacts, the County will continue maintenance activities for weed control and parcels within the City of Loma Linda will be irrigated. However, with continued weed abatement programs and the installation of irrigation systems, threat of potentially more intense wildfire would be reduced. This is a less than significant impact.

XVIII. MITIGATION MEASURES

No significant or potentially significant adverse impacts were identified. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

REFERENCES [2]

City of Loma Linda, 1973 General Plan.

City of Loma Linda. 2004. Draft General Plan.

City of Redlands. 1995 amended December 12, 1997. General Plan.

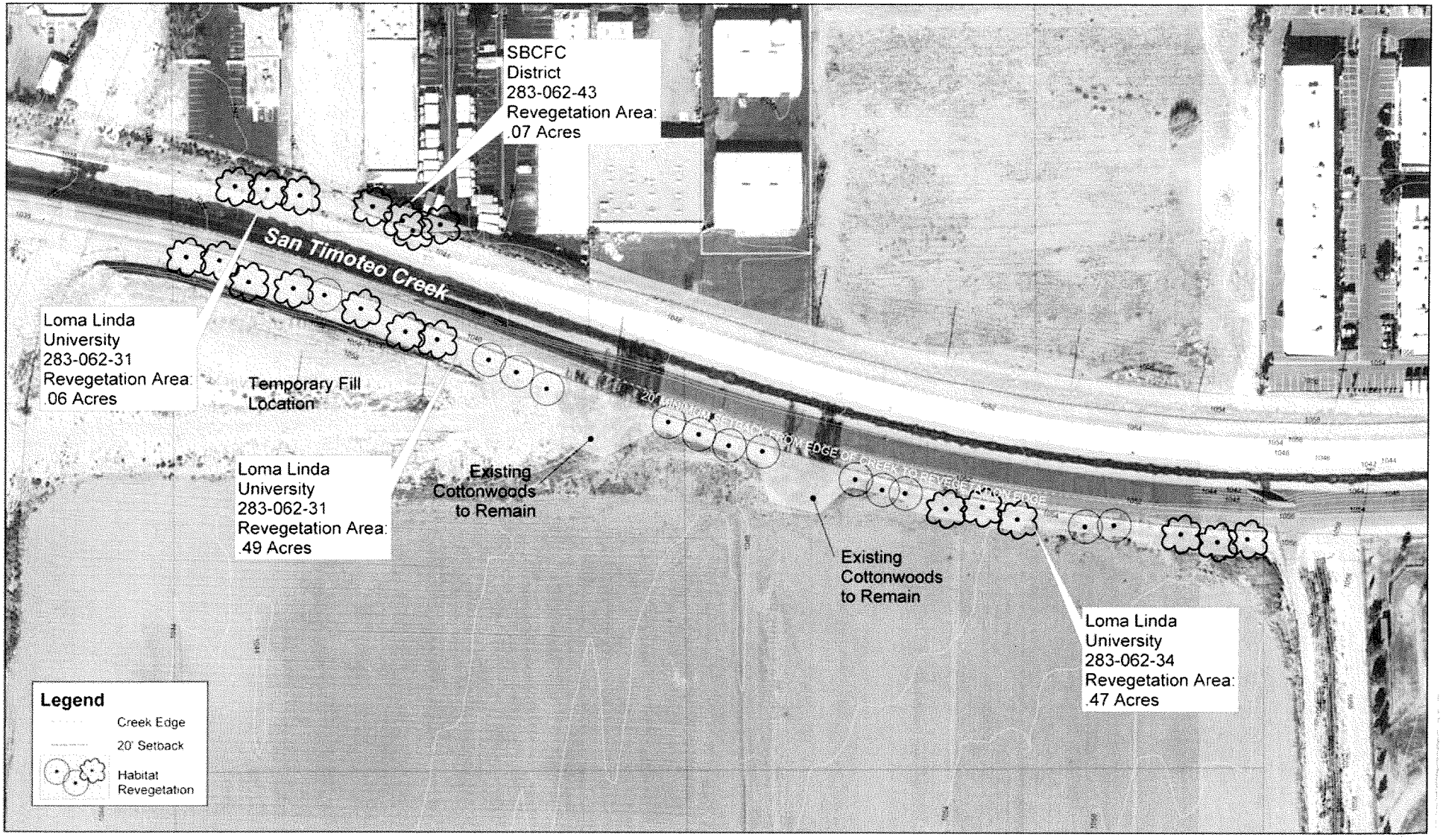
KEA Environmental, Inc. October 2000. Santa Ana River Mainstem Project, Including Santiago Creek, San Timoteo Creek Reach 3B, Final Environmental Impact Statement Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR). SCH# 1998094013. Vol. I, Part 1. Section 3.3 Biological Resources.

Terp, Jill M. July 1999. Draft Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report for the San Timoteo Creek Flood Control Project, San Bernardino County, California. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[2] All referenced documents are available for review at the City of Loma Linda.

Appendix A

San Timoteo Creek Enhancement Project
Proposed Revegetation Plan
Loma Linda, California



June 2005

Proposed Revegetation Plan

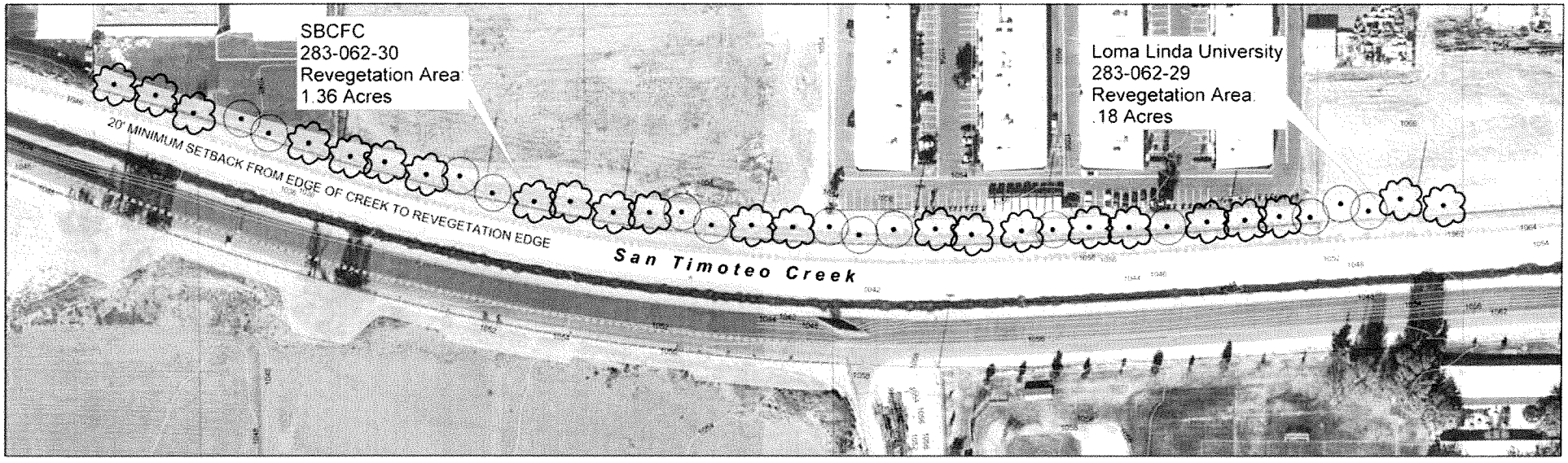
San Timoteo Creek - Habitat Enhancement Project
City of Loma Linda, California

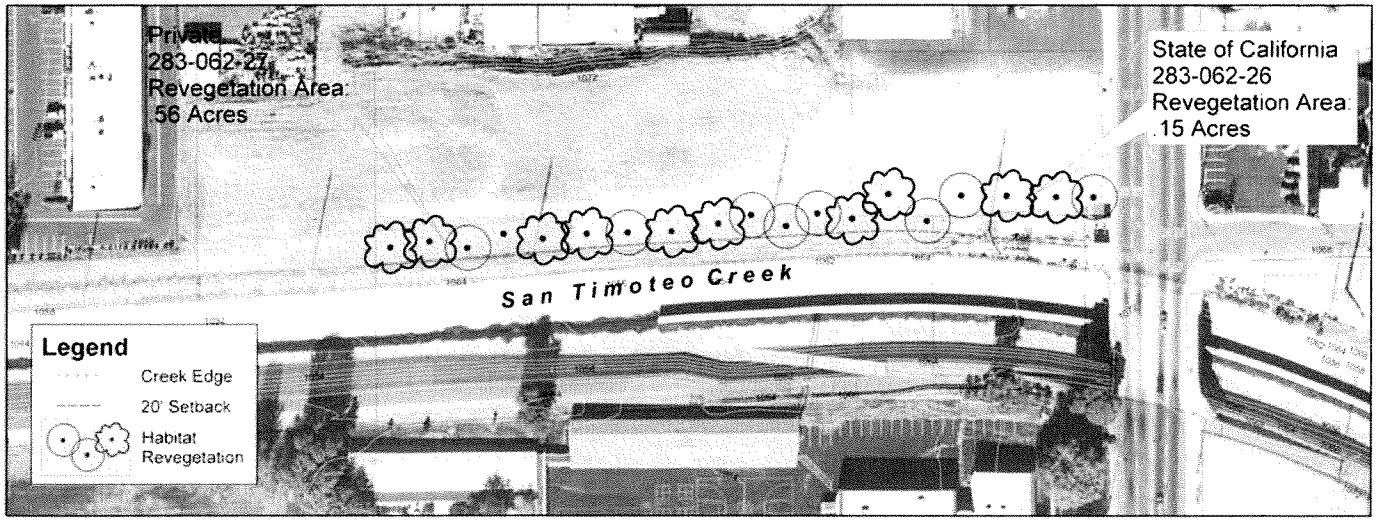
Scale: 1" = 50'

0 60 180
30 120
Feet

N

Sheet 1 of 6





The Environmental Center

June 2005

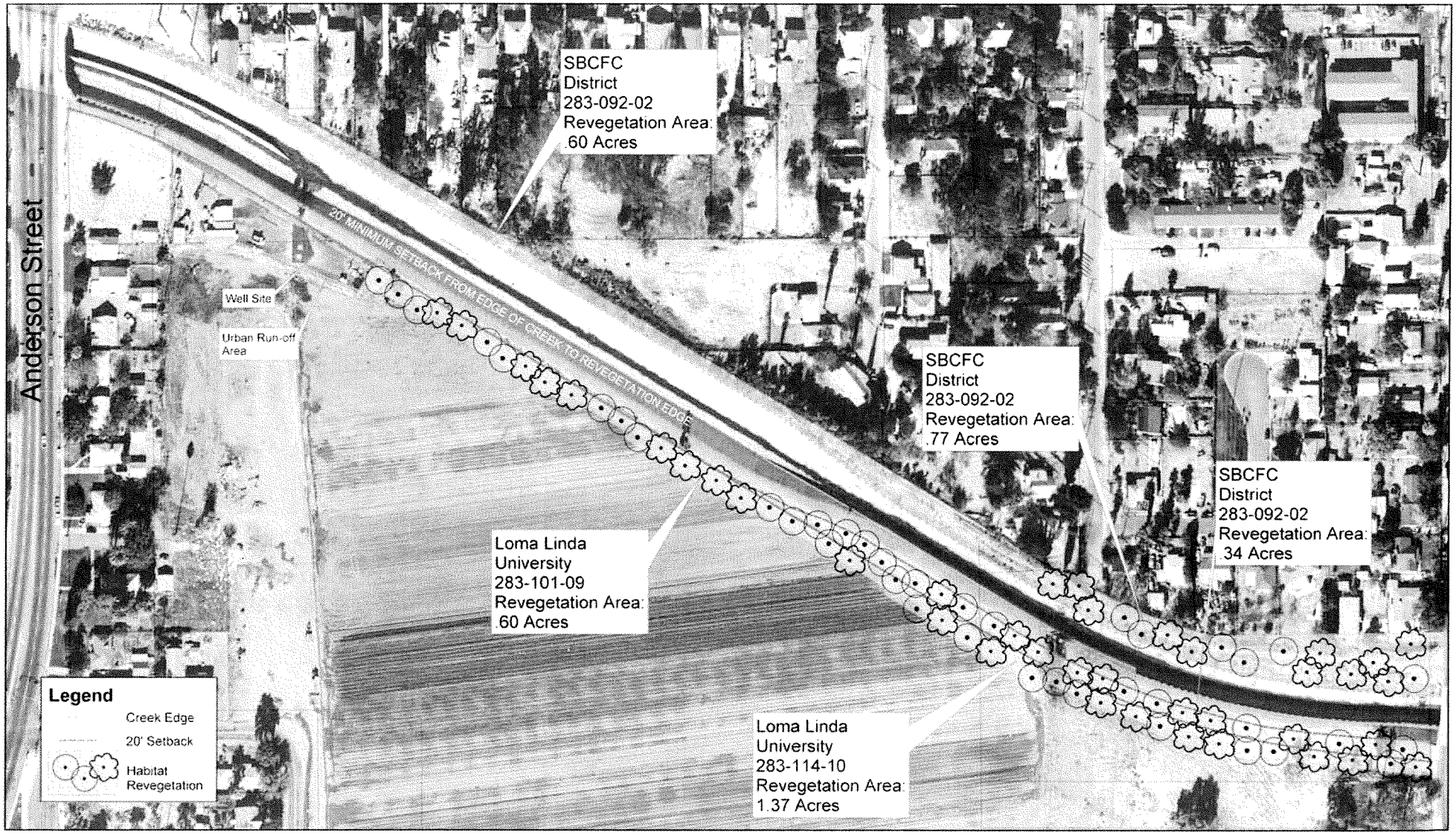
Proposed Revegetation Plan

San Timoteo Creek - Habitat Enhancement Project
City of Loma Linda, California

Scale: 1" = 50'

0 60 180
30 120
Feet

N



June 2005

Proposed Revegetation Plan

San Timoteo Creek - Habitat Enhancement Project
City of Loma Linda, California

Scale: 1" = 60'

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Feet

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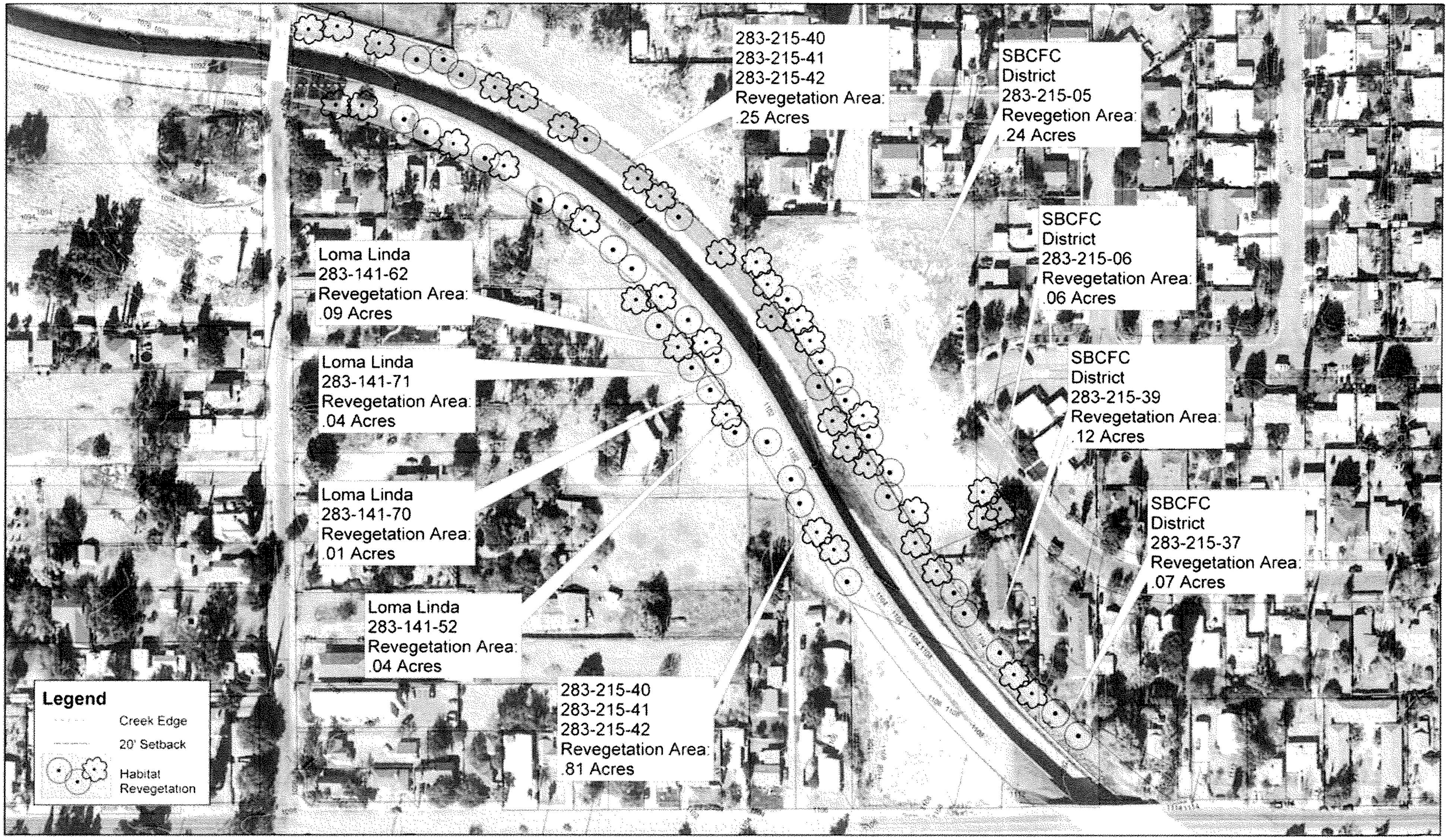

June 2005

Proposed Revegetation Plan

San Timoteo Creek - Habitat Enhancement Project
City of Loma Linda, California

Scale: 1"=60'
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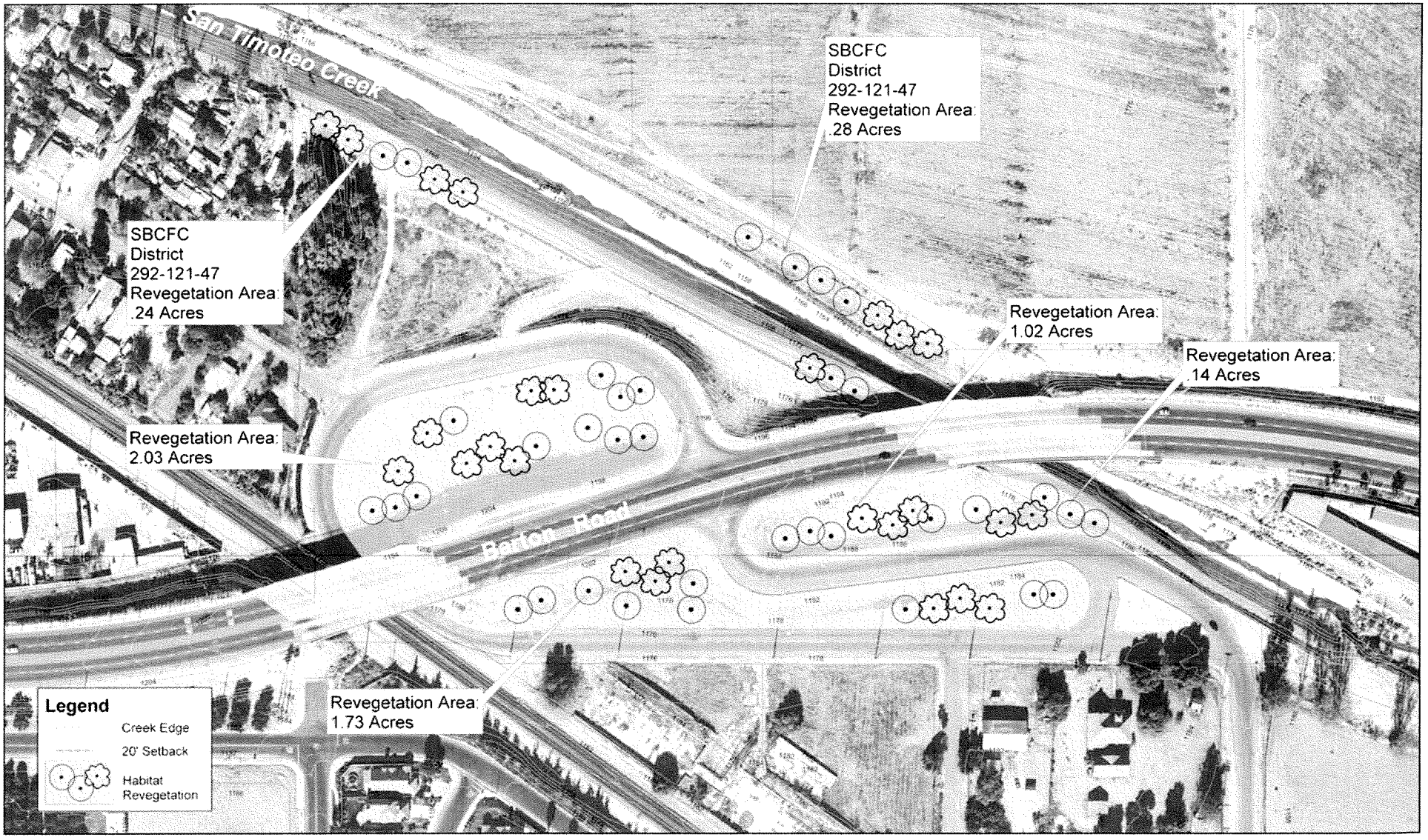

June 2005

Proposed Revegetation Plan

San Timoteo Creek - Habitat Enhancement Project
City of Loma Linda, California

Scale: 1"=60'

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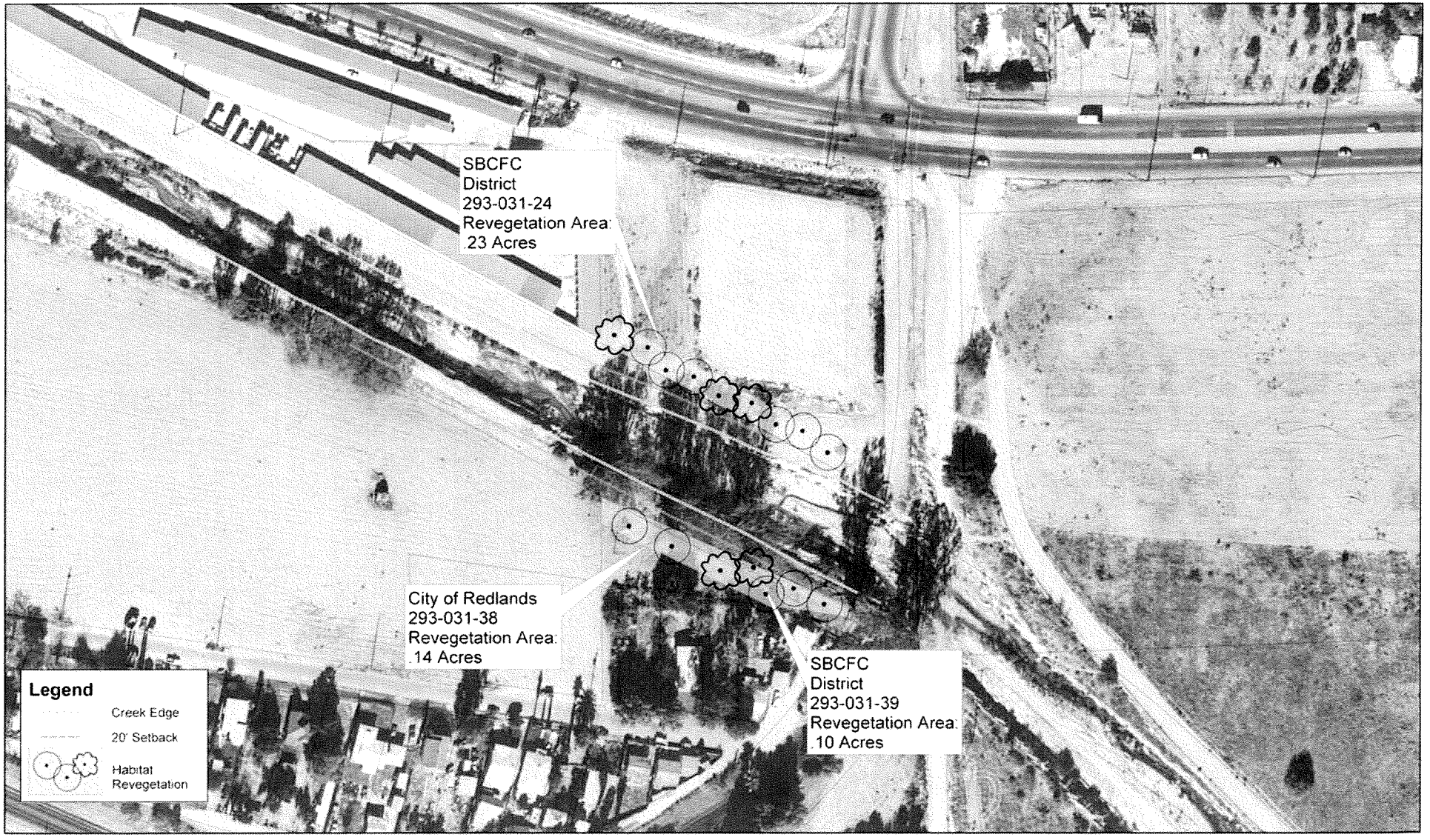
30 120
Feet

N

Sheet 5 of 6



The Planning Center
June 2005

Proposed Revegetation Plan

San Timoteo Creek - Habitat Enhancement Project
City of Loma Linda, California

Scale: 1" = 50'

0 60 180
30 120
Feet

N

Sheet 6 of 6